

# Federal Accounting Standards Advisory Board

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

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## NEWS RELEASE

**FASAB NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON TWO RECENTLY  
PUBLISHED EXPOSURE DRAFTS ENTITLED  
*Heritage Assets and Stewardship Land:  
Reclassification from Required Supplementary Stewardship Information  
and  
Identifying and Reporting Earmarked Funds***

The Federal Accounting Standards Advisory Board (FASAB) will hold a public hearing in conjunction with its March 3-4, 2004 Board Meeting to hear testimony about comments on two recently published exposure drafts (ED)—(1.) *Heritage Assets and Stewardship Land: Reclassification from Required Supplementary Stewardship Information* and (2.) *Identifying and Reporting Earmarked Funds*. The public hearing will also permit the Board to ask questions about information and points of view submitted by respondents. The EDs are available on the FASAB website [www.fasab.gov](http://www.fasab.gov) under Exposure Drafts for your reference.

The proposed standard *Heritage Assets and Stewardship Land: Reclassification from Required Supplementary Stewardship Information* reclassifies heritage assets and stewardship land information as basic information, except for condition information, which would be classified as required supplementary information. The ED also introduces minor changes to the current disclosure requirements for heritage assets and stewardship land by requiring additional reporting disclosures about entity stewardship policies and an explanation of how heritage assets and stewardship land are pertinent to the entity's mission. Many respondents did not support the Board's proposal to reclassify the information as basic. Most respondents also did not agree with the proposed effective date in the ED. The Board has tentatively agreed to delay the effective date of the proposed standard for one year and make it effective for periods beginning after September 30, 2005. Although the Board is interested in all testimony regarding the ED, the Board is particularly interested in hearing additional testimony about:

- Specific arguments against heritage assets and stewardship land information being classified as basic, i.e., essential to fair presentation;

- Potential costs of implementing the proposed standard; and
- The meaning of the term "significant" and whether the term "significant" (as used in the ED) provides clear enough guidance for implementing the proposed standard.

The proposed standard *Identifying and Reporting Earmarked Funds* proposes a definition for earmarked funds including three criteria. The standard would require segregation of certain information related to earmarked funds on the face of principal financial statements. Detailed disclosures also would be required. Some responses indicate that the definition is unclear. Many respondents suggest that disclosures are sufficient and that the Board should not require segregation of information presented in the principal financial statements. Although the Board is interested in all testimony regarding the ED, the Board is particularly interested in hearing additional testimony about:

- Specific examples where the definition of earmarked funds is difficult to apply.
- Benefits and drawbacks of segregating earmarked fund information on the face of the principal financial statements.
- The meaning of the term "significant" and whether the term "significant" (as used in the ED) provides clear enough guidance for implementing the proposed standard.

Any individual or organization may request to be heard at the public hearing. Submission of written comments or an outline of proposed oral presentation is encouraged and will be distributed to the members of the Board. Individuals or organizations wishing to be heard at the public hearing, should notify FASAB of their intent by **February 12<sup>th</sup>, 2004** by contacting Melissa Loughan at 202-512-5976, email [loughanm@fasab.gov](mailto:loughanm@fasab.gov) or Wendy Comes at 202-512-7357, email [comesw@fasab.gov](mailto:comesw@fasab.gov).

## ABOUT FASAB

The mission of the FASAB is to promulgate federal accounting standards after considering the financial and budgetary information needs of citizens, congressional oversight groups, executive agencies, and the needs of other users of federal financial information.

Federal accounting standards and financial reporting play a role in fulfilling the Government's duty to be publicly accountable. Federal financial reports can help report users assess the government's accountability, efficiency, and effectiveness, including the consequences of the allocation and use of resources.

For more on FASAB, please visit our website: [www.fasab.gov](http://www.fasab.gov).